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**PLATEAU
MINING
CORPORATION**

Willow Creek Mine
847 NW Hwy 191
Helper, Utah 84526
(435) 472-0475
Fax: (435) 472-4780

An affiliate of **RAG**

December 11, 2000

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, STE. 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: Temporary Cessation, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

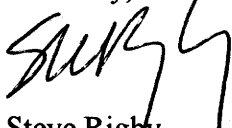
In accordance with the Utah R645 Coal Rules, Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC) is hereby notifying the Division that its Willow Creek Mine is in temporary cessation. This interruption of activities was caused by an underground explosion and fire that occurred on July 31, 2000. The period of the cessation is indefinite at this point pending the results of the MSHA investigation and internal reviews. PMC will notify the Division of status changes when final decisions have been made on the future of the mine.

During the cessation period, PMC will continue to maintain environmental control measures on all surface areas and perform environmental monitoring as required by the permits. Temporary seals have been placed at the mine entries therefore access into the mine is prevented during this interim period.

The Willow Creek Mine has 161.55 acres of permitted disturbance within its 14,670 acre permit area.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, John Borla or Johnny Pappas. We look forward to continuing the excellent working relationship with the Division as well as all other regulating agencies.

Sincerely,



Steve Rigby
Acting Mine Manager

cc: J. Greene

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING